

## Bear Creek Valley Phase I ROD Project

**Scope:** The Bear Creek Valley (BCV) Phase I Record of Decision<sup>1</sup> (ROD) Project will complete the remaining actions specified in the selected remedy of the ROD. The project objective is to remediate S-3 Ponds site groundwater and Disposal Area Remedial Action (DARA) Facility soils and to perform stream restoration. The project will:

- Remove and transport contaminated soils stored at the DARA facility for off-site commercial disposal then dismantle the facility;
- Intercept and treat shallow groundwater contamination at S-3 Ponds Site Pathway 3; and
- Design and construct stream restoration to mitigate impacts from previous actions.

The S-3 Ponds site, adjacent to the west end of the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) main plant area, consists of four unlined ponds formerly used for managing liquid waste. The S-3 Ponds site has undergone closure under the Resource Conservation and Recover Act (RCRA) and has been converted to a parking lot; however, the site remains a source of groundwater contamination. The DARA facility is located near the Bear Creek Burial Grounds (BCBG), west of the main plant area, and is used to store contaminated soils from past remedial actions in the BCBG area.

The BCV Phase I ROD project is planned by the Integrated Facility Disposition Program (IFDP) at an estimated cost of \$149M.

### Environmental Risk and Principal Threat Source Material Rating: **Medium**

- S-3 Ponds Pathway 3 is an important contributor to uranium contamination and the primary source of nitrate and cadmium contamination in Bear Creek. Remediation of Pathway 3 shallow groundwater will help meet the primary BCV ROD Phase I watershed goal of reducing the uranium concentration in surface water to meet risk-based levels for future residential land use in west BCV.
- Remediation of DARA soils [contaminated with uranium, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)] will remove a surface hazard for industrial workers, consistent with controlled industrial land use for the waste management area specified in the ROD.
- Planned stream restoration activities will be performed in a yet to be selected area in order to mitigate past stream and wetland impacts from completed remediation and construction activities (Boneyard/Burnyard remediation and Environmental Management Waste Management Facility construction in BCV and transuranic waste facility construction at ORNL.)

### Other Prioritization Factors:

After completion of the BCV Phase I ROD and BCBG remedial actions, a final groundwater decision for BCV watershed will be addressed in the planned future BCV Groundwater ROD.

### Overall Prioritization: **Medium**

The S-3 Ponds Pathway 3 remediation will mitigate contaminant migration and is the first BCV Phase I ROD project activity planned for implementation by IFDP. The DARA soils contamination is contained within the waste facility; therefore, remediation of DARA soils is planned for later implementation. The overall prioritization of the BCV Phase I ROD projects is **Medium**.

*The information presented in this fact sheet is preliminary and will be refined during Critical Decision-2/3 development.*

<sup>1</sup> Record of Decision for Phase I Activities in Bear Creek Valley at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-1750&D4, DOE 2000)

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For more information, please contact the DOE public affairs office at (865) 576-0885.

